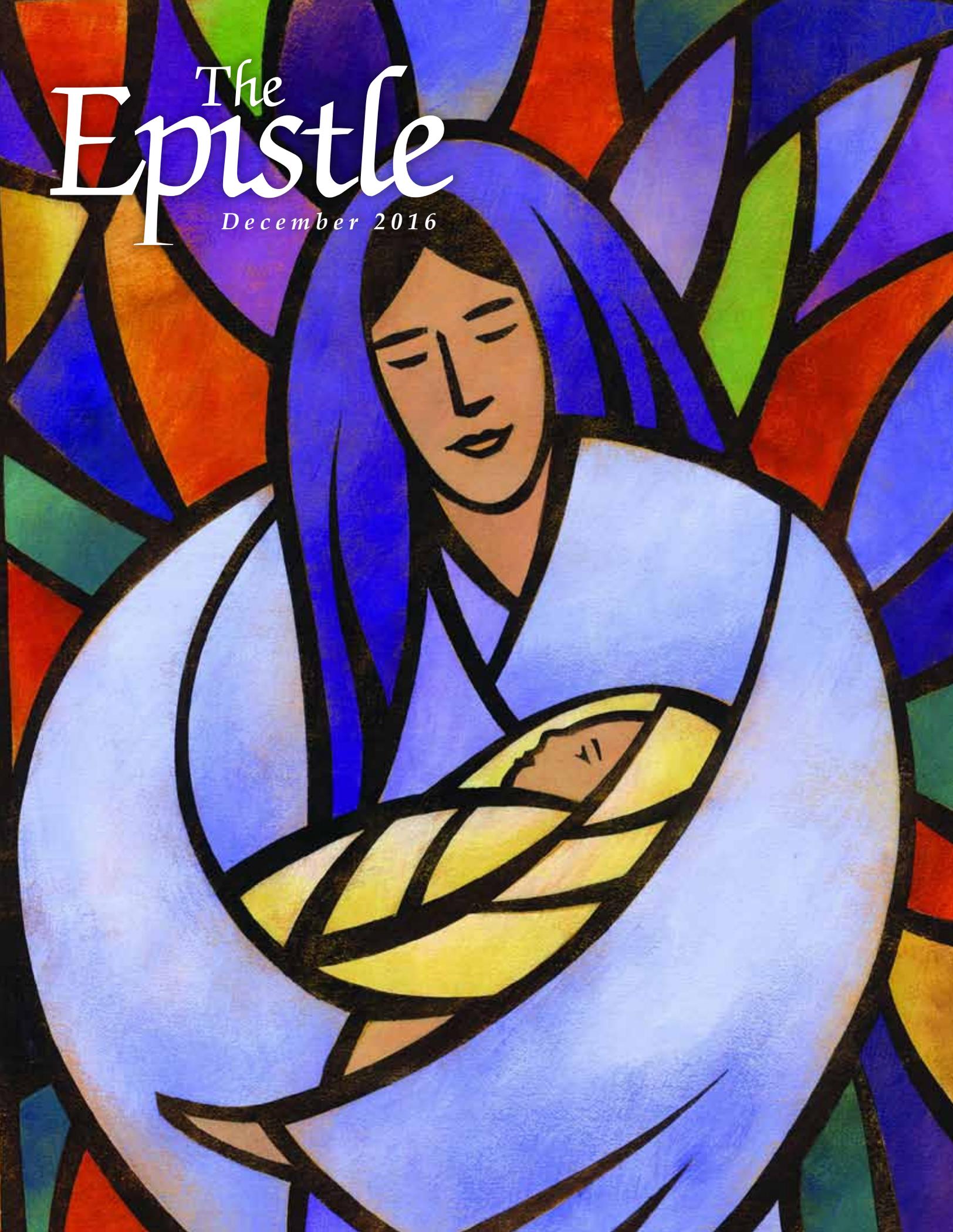
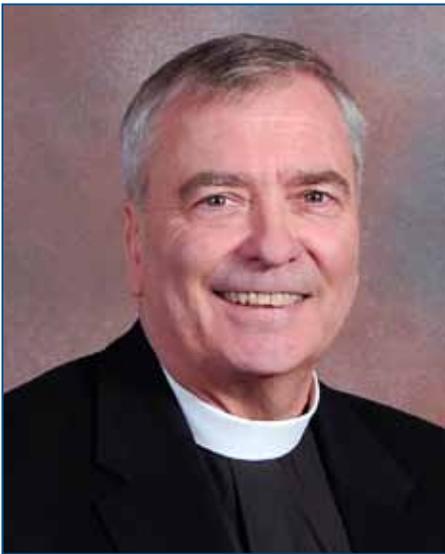


# The Epistle

December 2016



## A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Canticles, especially at this time of the year is the Magnificat - The Song of Mary.

*My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,*

*My Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

What I love about this particular verse is that Mary blesses God before the Christmas event. Mary praises God not knowing the outcome. She blesses God before the result.

How unusual! We usually bless God after the result. After the blessing. Mary teaches us that you and I can promise to love God no matter what. The brilliance of the Magnificat is that Mary lives into the future of "Thank you God for blessing me" rather than waiting to see how it works out.

To take this one step further, you and I can create a loving

relationship with another, like a promise, rather than operating out of what I already know. This is what happens in the marriage vows! To love and to cherish in good times and bad. The promise creates the future of the relationship. It is to be in loving relationship with each other based on a promise (giving my word) rather than being related from the perspective of certainty and knowing.

This is my prayer for each and everyone of you in this parish. That our love for each other comes simply from the promise to love you. Not one based on what I know, or for any results of the past. It is to live in the Baptismal Covenant. "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

I will, with God's help.

Warmly,

Father Stephen

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit. The actions of the Little Lamb Management Group, and the actions of the Thrift Shoppe Management Group were ratified.

The Income & Expense Report for the period ending October 31, 2016 was distributed.

-The Finance Committee has begun work on the 2017 budget. Only 31 pledge cards have been returned so far.

-The air conditioning units are all old and some are not working. The units in the Church will cost \$24,000 to repair and replace. The units for the rest of the building will cost \$75,000 to repair and replace. The Church is the most urgent area. The Finance Committee will evaluate and make a plan for what will be done and when.

-We are using name tags at the Sunday services. Need to work out how everyone will find their name tag easily.

-The members of the Nominating Committee, for Vestry elections, are Stephen Rozzelle, Linda Meyer, Janet Furness and Karen Cahill.

-A motion was passed that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017.

The minutes of the Vestry meeting will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall as they become available. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.



## Breakfast With Santa!

Santa is coming to Christ Church on Saturday, December 10th! There will be two seatings, 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Ticket prices are: \$7 per person. Ticket price includes a pancake breakfast, a picture with Santa, and a gift for each child.

We will have a special Santa Shack (No Adults Allowed!) where the children can buy inexpensive gifts for their family and friends.

We are looking for donations for the Santa Shack. We need small inexpensive gifts that would be good for siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. We are also accepting cash donations so that we can purchase some items. The children very much look forward to buying these gifts and the looks on their faces when they are finished making their purchases are priceless.

For tickets contact Debbie Onderlinde at 973-271-6562 or nealndeb@aol.com or call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.



## Christmas Services

On Christmas Eve the Cherub and Junior Choirs will sing at the 5:00 pm Family Service. The Adult Choir will sing at the 10:30 pm service. The Christmas Day service is at 10:00 am. There will not be an 8:00 am or 9:30 am Sunday service on Sunday, December 25.

## Shepherd's Haven Giving Tree!

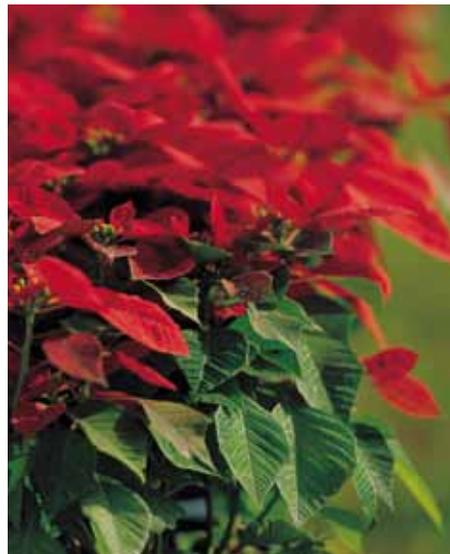
Looking for a unique present for someone this holiday season? Perhaps you would like to honor a special event, or acknowledge a birthday. Consider giving a donation to Shepherd's Haven. For a gift of \$250, an engraved leaf with your name will be placed on our Giving Tree. The tree hangs on the inside wall facing Shepherd's Haven's front door. Come and see it.

Donations should be payable to Shepherd's Haven and are tax deductible with acknowledgment given.

## Christmas Memorials

Christ Church is a beautiful church and is especially lovely at Christmas. We invite all members and friends of the Church to share in making beautiful the sanctuary for the joyful celebration of Christ's birth.

You may want to offer your gift in memory of loved ones who have departed this life and you may also want to offer your gift in thanksgiving for some special blessing. If so, you may indicate your desires on the special offering envelope. Those of you who are on the permanent list may use the envelope to make your payment. The cost is \$5.00 per Memorial/Thanksgiving and must be received by December 11th. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



## Capital Campaign Offering Envelopes

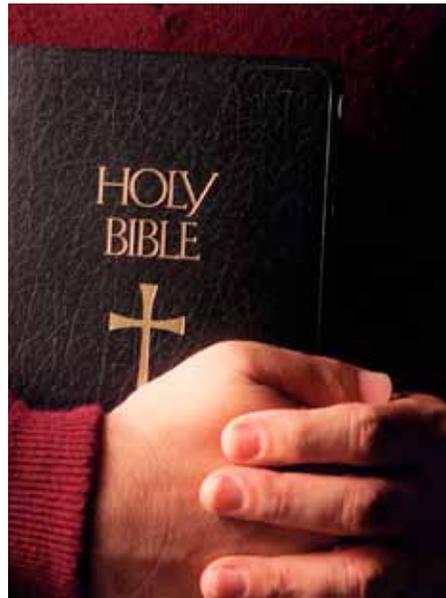
Capital Campaign Offering envelopes are available for your convenience, and can be found on the table in the Vestry Room or in the Parish Office.

## Two-Year Planners for Sale

We are selling two year planners for the years 2017 and 2018. The cost is \$3.00 each and they can be purchased through Erica Stewart or the Parish Office.

## Shop and Make Money for Christ Church

For all of your Christmas shopping, think gift cards from Gift Cents. Christ Church receives a percentage of every dollar you spend! A complete listing of all stores and supermarkets, and order forms, are available in the Parish Office. Make checks payable to Christ Church. Contact Linda Meyer for more information at 973-809-3338 or [linda\\_a\\_meyer@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_a_meyer@yahoo.com).



## An Advent Prayer from Deacon Barbara

Lord God, prepare a path  
in our hearts for the  
coming of your Son.



## Soup on Sunday

The *Soup on Sunday* program continues in to the winter with an expanded outreach. The proceeds from soup will be donated to Father Stephen's granddaughter who has cystic fibrosis.

All soups are low sodium, low fat, low sugar, and made with homemade stocks.

To order, simply use the soup selection list that is available in the Parish Hall. When 12 pints of a particular soup have been ordered, that particular soup will be made during the week and have it ready for pick up on the next Sunday.



For those who don't always plan in advance, we will more than likely have some specials available from time to time and an inventory available from the freezer. Feel free to take what you like from the freezer and pay Maureen in the Parish Office, or Joel at the 8:00 coffee hour.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall if you would like to order soups and to support this special cause!

*Joel Finger*



## Ringwood Neighborhood News

The Ringwood neighborhood group is particularly blessed with smart and creative people. We have met twice and had one social gathering at the Sellittis who hosted us beautifully and fed us well. Thank you Barbara and Rudy.

During our very first meeting in September we determined to try to connect more closely not only with one another, but also with our sisters and brothers at Good Shepherd Anglican. On November 20th their children's choir performed for us, Deke DeFreese and colleagues drummed and we enjoyed a Thanksgiving coffee hour. We have significant ties with that congregation. As you know Fr. Steven serves there every Sunday at noon and Rudy Sellitti plays the organ every other week and accompanies the children's choir rehearsals.

The group is full of ideas. In October we met and spoke with Barbara Harriman, who serves at Northern State Prison, to see if we might provide anything for those imprisoned. Parenthetically, she and her family used to live in Ring-

wood, so we've adopted her as one of our own; it's clear to me it's no accident she came to Christ Church this past fall. Turns out she/they need shirts, fleeces, sweats (large, 1X, 2X) as many have nothing more to wear than what they had on their backs when arrested. Also they need Bibles, Spanish and English. Joe DeSpirito suggested we contact the Gideon Society for the Bibles (thank you Joe) and we are pursuing that through Barbara as per prison protocol. Florence Loscalzo (thank you) has already provided some clothing and the Helms (thank you Sue and Tim) will see if the local Boy Scout Troop will undertake a collection as part of earning merit badges.

We are exploring "curbing hunger" in our town. I have been in touch with Scott Heck, town manager - he expressed interest - and will contact the Community Church in Ringwood which has an active food program to see if we can coordinate with them. Thank you Scott.

Finally, in keeping with the themes mentioned above, we want to present two programs on two Sundays during Lent: the first will address prison reform; the second would be designed to learn more about the indigenous Ramapo people. We plan to publicize both as widely as possible, invite other churches, the surrounding community and high school groups.

That's the news so far from The People's Republic of Ringwood. You guys rock.

## Name Tags

Many churches use name tags to help everyone get to know each other's names better. We will be implementing that practice here at Christ Church. To begin, we will have a box in the back of the church where the greeters will hand out your name tag. If you come in the side door, please see a greeter to get your name tag. When you leave church, please return the name tag and put in the box. If you go to coffee after church, we will have two boxes on the table. One will be labeled "FRONT DOOR" the other will have "SIDE DOOR." Please put your tag in the appropriate box depending on where you prefer to enter church. Going forward the "SIDE DOOR" box will be with the bulletins as you come in the side door. Please take your name tag as you enter church. Have no fear if you do not see your name tag. Please see a greeter and let them know and we will have one ready for you the following week. If you are a visitor, there will be blank labels for you to put your name on. This will help us to get to know each other!

## Pledge Card Reminder

This is a reminder to return your 2017 Pledge Cards. You can mail them, put them in the offering plate, or bring them to the Parish Office.





## Sunday School News

On October 30th, the children celebrated 'Family Sunday' with a Halloween theme. Many came in costume and there was a great turnout. The singing was very spirited and there were some background instruments which added to the fun. After the service the children got to enjoy a great Halloween party hosted by Sue Cook. This included a visiting witch, treats, games and goody bags.

Also on October 30th and November 6th, Kathy Olinger held a Thirty-One bag fundraiser to help raise money for the Sunday School. This was a great success and many bags that were earned from this sale will be donated to a Bag Bingo party in the winter to raise more funds.

We have begun thinking about the holidays and Christmas activities have begun. Our annual Christmas gift collection is underway. This year we are again collecting for Eva's Kitchen in Paterson. For the gift collection, there is a tree with tags on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Anyone taking a tag is asked to please bring in their unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 4th. They will

be distributed to Eva's Kitchen that Sunday. Thank you as always for your generosity!

More about the spirit of Christmas in the weeks to come.

*Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania and Debbie Onderlinde*



## Choir Fund Raiser

Do you have old cellphones, ink cartridges or other small electronic devices such as games, MP3 players and Ipods? Don't toss them in the trash!! Bring them in and leave them in our box in the church office. The choir can recycle these items and receive cash for them! It's a win, win...the choir can buy more great music and you can help the environment at the same time.



## Christ Church is on Facebook

Christ Church is now on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/christchurchpompton](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchpompton) to become a fan.



## Parish Family Birthdays-December

Happy Birthday to all of you in our parish family having birthdays in the month of Decober. If you have not yet informed the parish office of your birthdate, please call Maureen at 973-835-2207.

- 1 - Donna Birch
- 1 - Cindy McNamara
- 4 - Tom Falk
- 13 - Michael Falk
- 13 - Cheryl Finger
- 14 - Logan Swanson
- 14 - Blake Wolfson
- 17 - Brian Liston
- 18 - Herb Gaiss
- 20 - Emily Shepard
- 22 - Gary Geresi
- 23 - Barbara Kida
- 24 - Kathleen Valle
- 24 - Elizabeth Kostyn
- 27 - Dave Miller
- 28 - Maria Elliott
- 28 - Matthew Cahill
- 28 - Barbara Hazelwood



## Luxury Vacations in Mexico and the Dominican Republic

Luxurious accommodations await you at fabulous resorts in both Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Prices are extremely affordable. Dates and accommodations are quite flexible. Advance planning is advisable. For pricing, availability, and accommodation details please see or call Cheryl Finger at 973-723-5044. .



## Personalized Cards

If you are looking for a convenient way to send out cards to friends, family, and/or business relations...look no further!

Order personalized cards with your name or signature printed directly on the card and return address printed directly on the envelope! This is a huge time-saving convenience!

Best of all, these cards are offered at a 20% discount and, in addition, Christ Church receives 7% back on the order...making your order a win-win for everyone.

The entire line of cards are available online for perusal at [www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com](http://www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com). On the website, you will be able to select a stock verse or create your own, select typestyles, and personalize it further by adding your name.

There are cards available for all budgets – go on, have some fun! Call Cheryl Finger with any questions or if assistance is needed at 973-616-0309.

To preview products online: [www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com](http://www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com)

## Our Communal Kitchen

There are many of us who use the kitchen at the church. Those who do should bear in mind the following guidelines:

- Leave the kitchen the way you found it. Everything should be cleaned, hand-dried, and put away. The counters and work surfaces should be clean and free of clutter. It's really nice to come into a clean kitchen.
- If you use cloth towels it would be greatly appreciated if you can bring them home, add them to your own laundry, and return them.
- Make sure the refrigerator doors are completely closed.
- Lock all lockable cabinets before your departure.
- Your help with maintenance is greatly appreciated since there is no particular person in charge of our kitchen; therefore, we all are. Thank you in advance!

## The Thrift Shoppe at 420 One Step Up

The Thrift Shoppe is now open on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 11:00 am until 12:00 noon. We are also open Tuesdays from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Thursdays from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Donations can be left in the shed located in the church parking lot to the right of the permanent storage shed. It is clearly marked with a sign for Thrift Shoppe drop-offs. The Thrift Shoppe is always in need of shopping bags. For more information please call Florence at 973-962-6289 or 925-640-3421.

*Florence Loscalzo*

## Yarn & Fabric Are Needed

The lovely senior woman who makes knitted and crocheted items such as slippers, scarves, booties, hats, baby blankets, etc. for charity events has expanded her outreach to making "coughing pillow teddy bears" for hospital patients who have had heart surgery. If you have any leftover yarn and fabric that she might be able to use, please consider donating it. Donations can be left in the Church office marked for Erica Stewart. Thank you to all who have donated and continue to donate - she greatly appreciates your donations!

## Baptisms

*November 6*

Kevin Douglas Stefanic III

*November 27*

Spencer William  
Cleeland-Murphy

## Burials

*November 19*

Barbara Backer

## Food for Friends

The second Sunday of each month is the traditional day to receive your contributions of canned or packaged food stuff and for personal hygiene items for distribution through our Food for Friends program. Items may be placed in baskets at the baptismal font or in the Children's Chapel. You may also bring items any time during the month and leave them by the box in the Guild Hall.



## Grocery Gift Cards

*The painless fundraiser!*

When you buy Grocery Gift Cards today, you'll have a good feeling knowing that Christ Church receives a Nickel for every dollar you spend! Grocery gift cards are available from Stop & Shop, Shop Rite in \$50 and \$100 denominations. All of the cards will carry any unused balance until you use it up. Perhaps you would consider donating a Shop Rite gift card to Shepherd's Haven or to Food for Friends. Cards are available from Joe Blauvelt, Linda Meyer after the coffee hours and Maureen Kilian in the church office during the week.



## Cards of Remembrance

Cards of remembrance are for those, who on the death of a friend, desire to send a memorial offering to Christ Church, instead of sending flowers. The cards are available through the Parish Office.

### The Episcopal Diocese of Newark Mission Statement

*Equipping congregations...  
Empowering people...  
Engaging the world...  
...with the hope and  
justice of Jesus*

## The Epistle

*The newsletter  
of Christ Church,  
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey  
973.835.2207  
www.christchurchpompton.org*

**December 2016**

*Please submit all copy to Maureen Kilian, Parish Administrator in a typewritten format or e-mail to office@christchurchpompton.org by the 15th of each month.*

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